

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**  
**Judicial Council Meeting**  
**February 4, 1998, Monterey**

*The Judicial Council took the following actions at its February 4 meeting:*

**Trial Court Coordination Plans**

- Approved the Trial Court Coordination Advisory Committee's (TCCAC) recommendation to approve 11 trial court coordination plans for fiscal year 1997–98 and fiscal year 1998–1999. All 58 counties have submitted plans for fiscal years 1997–1998 and 1998–1999. In addition to the 51 plans approved to date, the council has granted provisional approval to the plans from Los Angeles and Orange Counties through March 31, 1998. Five plans are still pending; final TCCAC recommendation for approval or rejection will be made to the Judicial Council on February 27, 1998.
- Directed that the cost implications of granting pay parity be provided to the Judicial Council on February 27, 1998, along with recommendations.

**Pay Parity**

- Approved a policy and certification process proposed by the Trial Court Coordination Advisory Committee that grants pay parity to all municipal court judges in those counties that have approved coordination plans and that are systematically assigning cases without regard to jurisdiction, which maximizes the use of judicial officers.
- Directed the Trial Court Coordination Advisory Committee to provide its final assessments of progress in coordination implementation and recommendations for pay parity by county/region based upon these criteria to the Judicial Council at an upcoming meeting.

**Trial Court Improvement Fund**

- Approved a one-time funding shift in the Trial Court Improvement Fund to meet urgent trial court needs in the current fiscal year. The council voted that the fund's one-quarter percent set-aside amount — approximately \$2 million — that was earmarked for statewide projects to benefit trial courts be shifted to the portion of the reserve fund earmarked to address urgent court needs. This will provide approximately \$6 million for urgent court needs this fiscal year.
- Approved an allocation of approximately \$2 million in funding from the Trial Court Improvement Fund moneys designated for courts that have coordinated to those trial courts that are “fully coordinated” to the maximum extent

allowable by law. This will reward courts that have accelerated their coordination efforts in advance of deadlines set forth in statutes and rules of court.

### **Three Strikes Relief Team — Fiscal Year 1996–1997 Report**

- Approved a report on the Three Strikes Relief Team program for fiscal year 1996–1997 for submission to the state Legislature.

### **Joint Annual Award to Recognize Efforts by an Individual Judge**

- Approved a proposed resolution authorizing a joint Judicial Council, State Bar, and California Judges Association annual award to recognize efforts by an individual judge to improve access to the judicial system for poor or low-income persons. This proposal was recommended by the Bench-Bar Pro Bono Project Advisory Committee.

### **Judicial Council Governance Principles**

- Adopted the governance principles that the council discussed and approved at an education session in November 1997. The Policies and Principles on Governance Process and Staff Linkage set forth the role and responsibilities of the Judicial Council, its internal and advisory committees, Administrative Director, and staff.

### **Court Profiles Project**

- Approved a recommendation to postpone the development of simulation methodology to assess trial court judicial need pending an independent assessment, which will be presented to the council in April 1998.